(c) and (d) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPA is now being further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including children. The Ministry of Women and Child Development conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programme for prevention of child trafficking. The Central Advisory Committee on combating Child Prostitution headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India reviews the State's activities in combating trafficking and prostitution every quarter. The Ministry of Women and Child Development also runs Swadhar Shelter Homes which provide shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counseling,rehabilitation and other facilities to women in difficult circumstances including trafficked victims and children. The Ministry is also implementing a project to combat trafficking of women and children.

Children adopted by foreign nationals

4257. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children adopted by foreign nationals living in the country or Indian nationals living in foreign countries during last five years;

(b) the status of funds allocated for regulating the inter-country adoption of children;

(c) whether safety and well upbringing of adopted children is ensured through some mechanism ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) During the last five years, 4830 NOCs have been issued in the case of children placed in Inter-country adoption including Non-resident Indians (NRIs); Overseas Citizen of India (OCIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs).

(b) Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA), which is an autonomous body under the Ministry, is fully funded by the Government of India and it regulates the inter-country adoption of children. During the year 2006-07 an amount of Rs. 1.50 crore was allocated to CARA for its administration as well as for implementation of its inter-country adoption programme.

(c) and (d) The procedure related to safety and upbringing of adopted Indian children has been provided under 'Guidelines for Adoption from India-2006' which is available on CARA's web site www.adoptioindia.nic.in.

Impact of declining sex ratio

4258. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA : Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that declining sex ratio has led to buy brides from other States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this gives rise to trafficking of women and other crimes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to check this trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) As per information received from the Government of Haryana, the State Government is aware that declining sex ratio has led to buying of brides from other States. However, they have reported that it is not a fact that this gives rise to trafficking of women and children and other crimes in Haryana. As per the information received from State Government of Punjab, the declining sex ratio in the State has started taking its toll affecting the availability of brides who are becoming scarcer.

(c) The major steps to check female feticide include: (i) A National Monitoring and Inspection Committee (NIMC) has been constituted at the Centre to take stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problem States (ii) A Committee has been set up under Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as per recommendations of the Central Supervisory Board Meeting, to amend the PC & PNDT Act to make it more stringent.(iii) A National Support and Monitoring Cell with external assistance has been set up for effective implementation of the Act by appointing professionals from police, medical, law and social science as full time consultants, (iv) The appropriate authorities are being sensitized. (v) Medical Community is being sensitized. (vi) Sale of ultrasound machines is being regulated. (vii) Various publications have been released by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (viii) Meeting of the Central Supervisory Board